and establishment of planning and management units in State Headquarters for implementation of the scheme.

The Planning Commission has given "in principle" clearance to this Ministry for negotiating with the World Bank through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Investment of P.F. in mutual funds

1807. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to invest P.F. accumulations in mutual funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government has notified the investment pattern under Para 52 of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, on 09.07.2003 according to which incremental accretions belonging to Provident Fund can be invested in units of such mutual funds which have been set up as dedicated funds for investment in Government securities and which have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Unused E.P.F.

†1808. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of Employees' Provident Fund is lying unused due to being disputed;

(b) if so, the amount lying unused due to being disputed till September, 2003;

(c) the total deposit in the said fund till September, 2003; and

(d) the average annual amount deposited in the fund during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir. There is no amount lying unused in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation due to being disputed. All Provident Fund monies are invariably invested and held by the Fund on behalf of workers.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Miserable condition of domestic servants

†1809. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the domestic servants are living in a miserable condition;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to safeguard the rights of domestic servants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) Attention of the Government has been drawn from time to time to the plight of domestic workers. Such workers form part of the unorganised labour force. There are several social security schemes like: Jan Shree Bima Yojana (Group Insurance), recently launched Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS), Pension Schemes for persons above 55 years of age amongst others also available to the workers engaged in the unorganised sector including domestic workers.

Rate of interest on EPF

1810. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the uncertainty about the rate of interest on EPF deposits has been agitating the mind of the workers;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the misgiving and to settle the issues; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.